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WSU ASSISTANT NAMED
MONTANA CAGE COACH

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE



sports

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The assistant basketball coach at Washington State University was named head basketball coach at the University of Montana UM athletic director Jack Swarthout announced at a Missoula press conference Wednesday.

Jud Heathcote, 43, replaced Lou Rocheleau who resigned last week because of personal reasons. Rocheleau guided Montana to a 8-16 overall and a 6-8 Big Sky record in his only season as head coach. Montana finished tied for fourth in the conference.

Heathcote was born in Fargo, N.D. and is a native of Port Orchard, Washington. He played for Big Sky Commissioner Jack Friel at WSU from 1946-49.

The new Grizzly mentor became the 16th basketball coach at Montana and was at Washington State since 1964.

Heathcote began his coaching career as a student assistant under Friel at WSU during the 1949-50 season. He was at West Valley High School, Spokane, from 1950-64 and won five league titles.

From 1964-69 he was freshman basketball coach at WSU compiling a 99-9 record in five seasons. Prior to the 1969 season his freshman Cougars were 83-3 which stood as one of the nation's top collegiate frosh records.

In 1969, Heathcote became freshman-varsity coordinator and held that position until his Montana appointment.

During the years at Washington State, Cougar varsity record was 104-77.

Heathcote is married and he and his wife Beverly have three children, Carla, 11, Jerry, 10 and Barbie, 6.

Swarthout said, "We are fortunate to acquire a man of Jud's caliber. I think he will develop teams we can all be proud of."

WSU athletic director Stan Bates said, "We're sorry to lose Jud--he's been a dedicated worker and an excellent coach." No successor has been named at WSU.

Swarthout said assistant coach Jim Brandenburg would remain on the UM staff as Heathcote's aide.

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